

Amendments to Claims

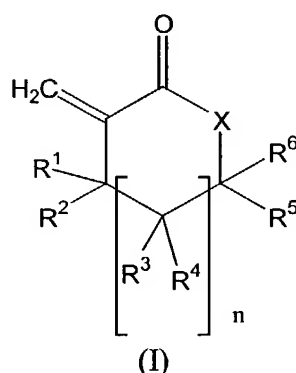
Claim 1(Original). A composition comprising,

(a) an α -methylene lact(one)(am) copolymer comprising,

- (i) at least one α -methylene lact(one)(am) monomer of Formula I, and
- (ii) at least one other free radically copolymerizable monomer, and

(b) a filler,

provided that no more than 95 mole percent and not less than 1 mole percent of repeat units in said α -methylene lact(one)(am) copolymer are derived from said α -methylene lact(one)(am) monomer,



wherein:

n is 0, 1 or 2;

X is -O- or -NR⁹-; and

R¹, R², R⁵, R⁶, each of R³ and each of R⁴, are independently hydrogen, a functional group, hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, and R⁹ is a hydrocarbyl or a substituted hydrocarbyl.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3(Original). A composition comprising the α -methylene lact(one)(am) copolymer of Claim 1 and from 5% to 80% by weight of a filler, based on the total weight of said copolymer and said filler.

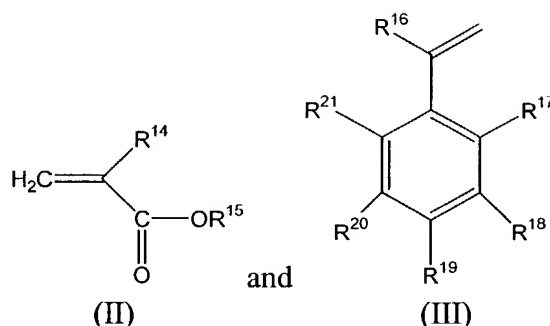
Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (Original). A composition comprising the α -methylene lact(one)(am) copolymer of Claim 1 and at least 10% by weight of alumina trihydrate based on the total weight of said copolymer and said alumina trihydrate.

Claim 6 (Original). The composition as recited in Claim 1 wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are all independently hydrogen or alkyl containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and X is oxygen.

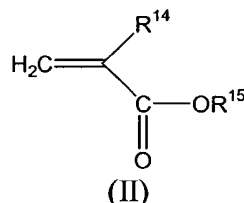
Claim 7 (Original). The composition as recited in Claim 1 wherein n is 0.

Claim 8 (Original). The composition as recited in Claim 1 wherein the free radically copolymerizable monomer comprises at least one of acrylonitrile, methalacrylic acid, compounds of Formula II and compounds of Formula III,



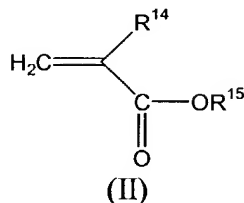
wherein R^{14} is hydrogen or methyl, R^{15} is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, and R^{16} is hydrogen or methyl, and R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} , R^{20} and R^{21} are each independently hydrogen, hydrocarbyl substituted hydrocarbyl or a functional group.

Claim 9 (Original). The composition as recited in Claim 3 wherein the free radically copolymerizable monomer of Claim 1 is the compound of Formula II,



wherein R^{14} is hydrogen or methyl, and R^{15} is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl.

Claim 10 (Original). The composition as recited in Claim 5 wherein the free radically copolymerizable monomer is the compound of Formula II,



wherein R^{14} is hydrogen or methyl, and R^{15} is hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl.

Claim 11 (Original). A composition comprising, at least one α -methylene lact(one)(am), a free radically copolymerizable monomer, an inorganic filler, and optionally a free radical initiator.

Claim 12 (Original). The composition of Claim 1 wherein the copolymer is crosslinked.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (Original). The composition of Claim 3 wherein the copolymer is crosslinked.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (Original). The composition of Claim 5 wherein the copolymer is crosslinked.

Claim 17 (Original). The composition of Claim 11 wherein or the copolymer is crosslinked.

Claim 18 (Original). The composition of Claim 1 in the form of a sheet or a molded article.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20(Original). The composition of Claim 3 in the form of a sheet or a molded article.

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (Original). The composition of Claim 5 in the form of a sheet or a molded article.

Claim 23 (Original). The composition of Claim 11 in the form of a sheet or a molded article.

Claim 24 (Original). The composition of Claim 1 in the form of a solid surface material used as a decorative surface.

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (Original). The composition of Claim 3 in the form of a solid surface material used as a decorative surface.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (Original). The composition of Claim 5 in the form of a solid surface material used as a decorative surface.

Claim 29 (Original). The composition of Claim 11 in the form of a solid surface material used as a decorative surface.

Claim 30 (Original). The composition of Claim 1 in the form of a kitchen top, counter top, table top, bathroom counter top, a wall covering, a kitchen sink, a bathroom sink, or a bathtub.

Claim 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (Original). The composition of Claim 3 in the form of a kitchen top, counter top, table top, bathroom counter top, a wall covering, a kitchen sink, a bathroom sink, or a bathtub.

Claim 33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (Original). The composition of Claim 5 in the form of a kitchen top, counter top, table top, bathroom counter top, a wall covering, a kitchen sink, a bathroom sink, or a bathtub.

Claim 35 (Original). The composition of Claim 11 in the form of a kitchen top, counter top, table top, bathroom counter top, a wall covering, a kitchen sink, a bathroom sink, or a bathtub.

Claim 36 (Original). A solid surface material exhibiting antimicrobial effectiveness, the solid surface material comprising the composition of Claim 1.

Claim 37 (canceled)

Claim 38 (Original). A solid surface material exhibiting antimicrobial effectiveness, the solid surface material comprising the composition of Claim 3.

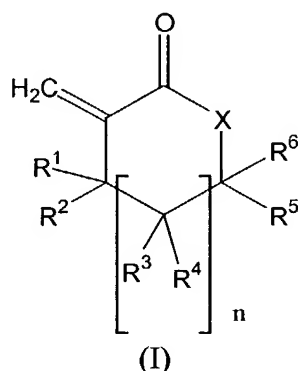
Claim 39 (canceled)

Claim 40 (Original). A solid surface material exhibiting antimicrobial effectiveness, the solid surface material comprising the composition of Claim 5.

Claim 41 (Original). A solid surface material exhibiting antimicrobial effectiveness, the solid surface material comprising the composition of Claim 11.

Claim 42 (Original). A process for manufacturing a plastic article, comprising the step of contacting

- (a) one or more acrylate or methacrylate esters,
- (b) one or more β -methylene lact(one)(am) monomers of Formula I,



wherein:

n is 0, 1 or 2;

X is -O- or -NR⁹-; and

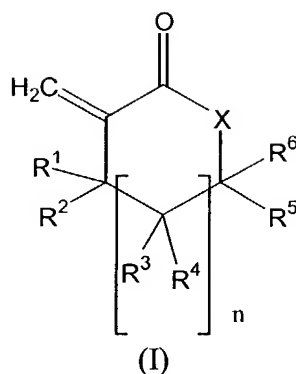
R¹, R², R⁵, R⁶, each of R³ and each of R⁴, are independently hydrogen, a functional group, hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, and R⁹ is a hydrocarbyl or a substituted hydrocarbyl;

- (c) one or more free radical initiators,
- (d) at least 10 weight percent of a filler based on total weight of the said homopolymer or copolymer and the filler,
- (e) optionally one or more homopolymers or copolymers of acrylate and/or methacrylate esters,

said contacting being at a temperature sufficient to cause said free radical initiator to generate free radicals; and wherein the β -methylene lact(one)(am) monomer of Formula I is at least 1 mole percent of the total composition of (a) and (b).

Claim 43 (Original). A process for manufacturing a plastic article, comprising the step of contacting

- (a) one or more acrylate or methacrylate esters,
- (b) one or more β -methylene lact(one)(am) monomers of Formula I,



wherein:

n is 0, 1 or 2;

X is -O- or -NR⁹-; and

R¹, R², R⁵, R⁶, each of R³ and each of R⁴, are independently hydrogen, a functional group, hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, and R⁹ is a hydrocarbyl or a substituted hydrocarbyl;

(c) at least one free radical initiator

(d) at least 10 weight percent of alumina trihydrate based on total weight of the said homopolymer or copolymer and alumina trihydrate,

(e) optionally one or more homopolymers or copolymers of acrylate and/or methacrylate esters,

said contacting being at a temperature sufficient to cause said free radical initiator to generate free radicals; and wherein the β -methylene lact(one)(am) monomers of Formula I is at least 1 mole percent of the total composition of (a) and (b).

Claim 44 (Original). The process of Claim 42, further comprising using the plastic article as a decorative surface.

Claim 45 (Original). The process of Claim 43, further comprising using the plastic article as a decorative surface.